

Remarks

In the office action, the specification was objected to for informalities and the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). In addition, claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

In this response, Applicants have amended the specification and Fig. 1 of the drawings. Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections is requested in view of the amendments to the specification and drawings and in view of the following remarks.

A. Objections to the Specification:

The specification was objected to for informalities. Applicant have amended paragraph [0018] of the specification as suggested by the Examiner to change “13” in line 3 to --14--.

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the typographical error and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification in view of the amendment.

B. Objections to the Drawings:

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing every claimed feature. Specifically, the Examiner objected that continuous stripper belt 14 is depicted “over grippers 13” and asserted that it was not clear how the stripper belt would be between the flat product and the axis of rotation.

Fig. 1 shows a “schematic view” of the continuous path of stripper belt 14 relative to transport cylinder 11. As originally filed, Fig. 1 showed stripper belt 14 using solid lines in the regions of grippers 13, thereby unintentionally and inaccurately implying that the stripper belt is disposed over the grippers 13. Applicants have amended Fig. 1 to more accurately show the actual path of stripper belt 14. Specifically, the portions of stripper belt 14 in the regions of grippers 13 have been deleted to indicate that stripper belt 14 does not cover the grippers, but rather follows a path underneath grippers 13.

The use of stripper belts to strip signatures from a transport cylinder is well known in the art of printing presses, as evidenced for example, by U.S. Patent No. 6,283,905, which is discussed in the present application. In order to carry out its function as a stripper belt, it is well understood that the stripper belt follows a path between the cylinder and the signature, and thus

also beneath the signature grippers. Applicants respectfully submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the path of the stripper belt 14 cannot pass over the top of signature grippers 13 since such a path would block the grippers from performing their function of gripping the signatures.

Rather, as is well known in the art and is clear from the text of the application, a stripper belt like the stripper belt 14 depicted in Fig. 1, follows a path beneath the surface of the cylinder (i.e. in grooves 15) so as to pass beneath the grippers 13. Amended Fig. 1 more accurately shows the correct path of the stripper belt 14 beneath grippers 13. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the oversight in Fig. 1, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection in view of the changes to Fig. 1.

C. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph:

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

As discussed in the preceding section, Applicants have amended Fig. 1 of the drawing to more accurately show the path of the stripper belt 14 as it relates to the surface of transport cylinder 11.

Applicants respectfully submit that the text of the application makes clear that the continuous path of the stripper belt 14 lies between the signatures and the axis of the transport cylinder 11. Applicants further submit that the use of stripper belts with transport cylinders is well known in the art of printing presses and that and that the present application would enable a person of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the claimed invention, in which the stripper belt follows a path underneath the grippers so as not to interfere with the function of gripping the signatures.

The Examiner also rejected claims 8 and 17, additionally for the reason that they recite a second stripper belt. Applicants have amended Fig. 1 to add reference numbers 18-22 pointing to portions of additional stripper belts on transport cylinder 11, which were included in originally filed Fig. 1. In addition, Applicants have amended Fig. 1 to extend the additional stripper belts 18-22 themselves to a point beyond stripper roller 16, so as to more clearly indicate that the additional stripper belts 18-22 are shown only partially. In the specification, Applicants have

amended paragraph [0019] to include references 18-22 in the text of the specification and to further clarify that the additional stripper belts are shown only partially. The additional stripper belts (though not the reference numbers 18-22 and not the extended portions below the stripper roller 16) were shown in Fig. 1 as originally filed. Additional support for the additional stripper belts 18-22 is also found elsewhere in the application, for example, at paragraphs [0009] and [0014]. No new matter has been added. As would be clear to a person of ordinary skill in the art, the additional stripper belts 18-22 follow paths similar to that of stripper belt 14, such as by using belt guides as those depicted using reference number 17. For reasons of clarity, however, and so as not to obscure the view of the complete path of stripper belt 14, the entire paths of additional stripper belts 18-22 are not shown in their entirety in Fig. 1.


Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, in view of the amendments to the drawings and specification is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-18. It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that an interview would advance prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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